



Theological Reflections from Dr. Bob Pennington

January 19, 2023

When Fr. Paul asked me if I wanted to write the weekly email message while he was on vacation I was excited to accept, but my mind immediately raced. I thought to myself:

“What topic do I choose? Hmmmm, let me think, its not Lent yet...Easter is too far away,” so I ruled those topics out. Then, I checked the Liturgical calendar for inspiration. I noticed the conversion of Saint Paul coming up, and, conversion is one of my favorite topics. But, it’s also a Lenten topic...so, I passed. Then, inspiration came! “I’ll say something about my favorite Biblical passage –Matthew 25:35-46.” In that passage Jesus tells his disciples, among other things, to “welcome the stranger,” (a teaching we see Jesus’ disciples live out in Luke 24:13-35 when they were on their way to Emmaus and encountered a stranger and extended their hospitality.) But, why is this biblical story important for to me to share with you? Because I came to Blessed Sacrament as a stranger...but I no longer feel like a stranger because of all of you! I feel welcomed!

Indeed, so many people generously shared their time, wisdom, and insights with me in such a way that I feel an abundantly blessed to now be a member of our Blessed Sacrament community as we all strive in our collective mission as members of the Catholic Church.

With gratitude,
Bob Pennington